

Panagiotis Kondylis

# **THE POLITICAL AND MAN**

Basic features of social ontology

Panagiotis Kondylis

# **THE POLITICAL AND MAN**

Basic features of social ontology

## **VOLUME I**

**SOCIAL RELATION, UNDERSTANDING, RATIONALITY**

## **VOLUME II**

**SOCIETY AS POLITICAL COLLECTIVE**

## **VOLUME III**

**IDENTITY, POWER, CULTURE**

Panagiotis Kondylis

SOCIAL RELATION  
UNDERSTANDING  
RATIONALITY

From Kondylis's unpublished text, edited by Falk Horst

Translated by C.F. from the original German - Kondylis, Panajotis: *Das Politische und der Mensch. Grundzüge der Sozialontologie*, Berlin: Akademie Verlag, Band 1, Soziale Beziehung, Verstehen, Rationalität, 1999.

Reference was also made to the Greek language translation, which was accorded minimal weight as it was not a translation by Kondylis himself - Κονδύλης, Παναγιώτης: *Το Πολιτικό και ο Άνθρωπος*, Αθήνα: Θεμέλιο, μετάφραση: Λευτέρης Αναγνώστου, 2007.

© all rights reserved 2015. This translation should not be reproduced in any form whatsoever without the express written permission of its author

C.F. contactable through the following email address:

pkproject@live.co.uk

# Table of contents

Preliminary note .....	5
I. Social theory and mass-democratic ideology .....	7
1. General remark .....	8
2. The becoming and forming of contemporary mass-democratic social theory .....	18
3. Differentiation, complexity and evolution: the relapse into the philosophy of history .....	69
4. Community and society: a legend rich in consequences .....	96
5. Mass-democratic social theory and anthropology .....	108
6. The political in mass-democratic social theory and in the constitution of the social .....	146
7. Outlook .....	166
II. Social sciences and social ontology .....	173
1. Stumbling and flight of fancy of philosophers in the realm of the social .....	174
2. Social-scientific methodological questions from a social-ontological perspective .....	206

A. Two kinds of founding of sociology . . . . .	206
B. Sociology and history . . . . .	235
C. The instructive errors of methodological individualism . . . . .	269
a. Methodological individualism as militant liberalism . . . . .	269
b. The unintended consequences of action . . . . .	277
c. The social-theoretical consequences of the unintended consequences of action . . . . .	291
d. Laws and causalities . . . . .	315
e. Microstructures and macrostructures . . . . .	343
3. Social ontology as theoretical dimension of depth . . . . .	355
A. The specific point of view of social ontology . . . . .	355
B. The being (Is) of society as object (or subject matter) of social ontology . . . . .	379
C. The three ontic aspects of the social and the theoretical triptych of social ontology . . . . .	398
 III. Social relation: the spectrum . . . . .	 427
1. The approach of formal sociology . . . . .	429
A. The functionalistic background and ambivalences of formalism	429
B. The form-related (i.e. formal) criterion of nearness (proximity) and distance . . . . .	449
2. The polarity in the spectrum of the social relation . . . . .	461
A. Anthropological parameters: the mortality of man . . . . .	461
B. The neutrality of the psychological and ethical factor . . . . .	480
3. The continuity in the spectrum of the social relation . . . . .	508

A. The meaning and the aetiology of continuity . . . . .	508
B. “Normality” and “exception” . . . . .	526
C. The phenomenology of continuity. A sketch . . . . .	535
4. Excursus: the spectrum of the social relation in the spectrum of social theory and of social science . . . . .	566
 IV. Social relation: the mechanism . . . . .	592
 1. The inner (internal) mechanism . . . . .	594
A. Outlook . . . . .	594
B. The Other and his subjectivity . . . . .	600
a. The openness of the social relation and the imponderability of the Other . . . . .	600
b. Alienness (foreignness, strangeness, unfamiliarity) and trust (confidence) . . . . .	632
C. Adoption of perspectives . . . . .	652
a. Sociological and phenomenological preliminary work . . .	652